GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1712
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
MINIMUM WAGES FOR BEEDI WORKERS
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum wages for beedi workers is varies in every State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fix uniform minimum wages for beedi workers in the entire country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The variation in rates of minimum wages in respect of beedi workers from State to State is due to differences in socio-economic & agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity, productivity, local conditions influencing the wage rate etc. The variation in minimum wages is also attributed to the fact that the different State Governments are the appropriate Government to fix, revise and enforce minimum wages in scheduled employments including beedi making in their respective jurisdictions under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(c): In order to minimize the disparity in minimum wages in various regions of the country, the Central Government has issued guidelines for setting up Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees. In addition, the Central Government has mooted the concept of a national floor level minimum wage to bring in uniformity in floor level minimum wages. The States/UTs have been requested from time to time to ensure that the minimum wage in any of their scheduled employments including beedi making is not fixed below the national floor level minimum wage.